


Cante Sica Ahpiyaye


Healing The Hurt Heart

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Intro Questions

- ▶ How many federally recognized tribes are there in the US?
 - ▶ What is the rape victimization rate among the Native American population? i.e. 1 in how many women will be raped in their lifetime?
 - ▶ What makes American Indian people different or unique?
 - ▶ What are some of the stereotypes that exist about Native American people?
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Goals of this Presentation

- ▶ Victimization rates
 - ▶ Why are Native American/American Indian population unique?
 - ▶ What is historical trauma? Intergenerational trauma? And how does it affect American Indian people?
 - ▶ What can non-Native workers do to best assist clients who are American Indian?
 - ▶ Brief introduction to Tribal Law
 - ▶ Resources for Workers
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Victimization Rates

- ▶ 2004 DOJ report estimates domestic violence and assault rate for Native women is 50% higher than the next most victimized demographic population
 - ▶ 2008 CDC study finds that 39% of all Native women surveyed have experienced some form of domestic violence in their lifetime, a rate higher than any other race or ethnic group
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Victimization–Sexual Assault

- ▶ Native Women are 2.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted than women in the USA in general
- ▶ 34% or more than 1 in 3 Native women will be raped during their lifetime, whereas women as a whole the risk is less than 1 in 5
- ▶ 2004 study examined intimate partner rape among AI/AN women found that 1 in 5 respondents reported they had been a victim of at least one incident in their lifetime.

Cultural Abuse


- ▶ Competes over “Indianness.”
- ▶ Misinterprets culture to prove male superiority and female submission.
- ▶ Uses relatives to beat her up.
- ▶ Says “real” Native women don’t wear make-up, wear slacks, talk or be independent.
- ▶ Denies the spiritual power & role of women.
- ▶ Says having more than one “wife” is “traditional.”
- ▶ Participates in ceremonies, then batters his partner, abuses the children.

Before Colonization

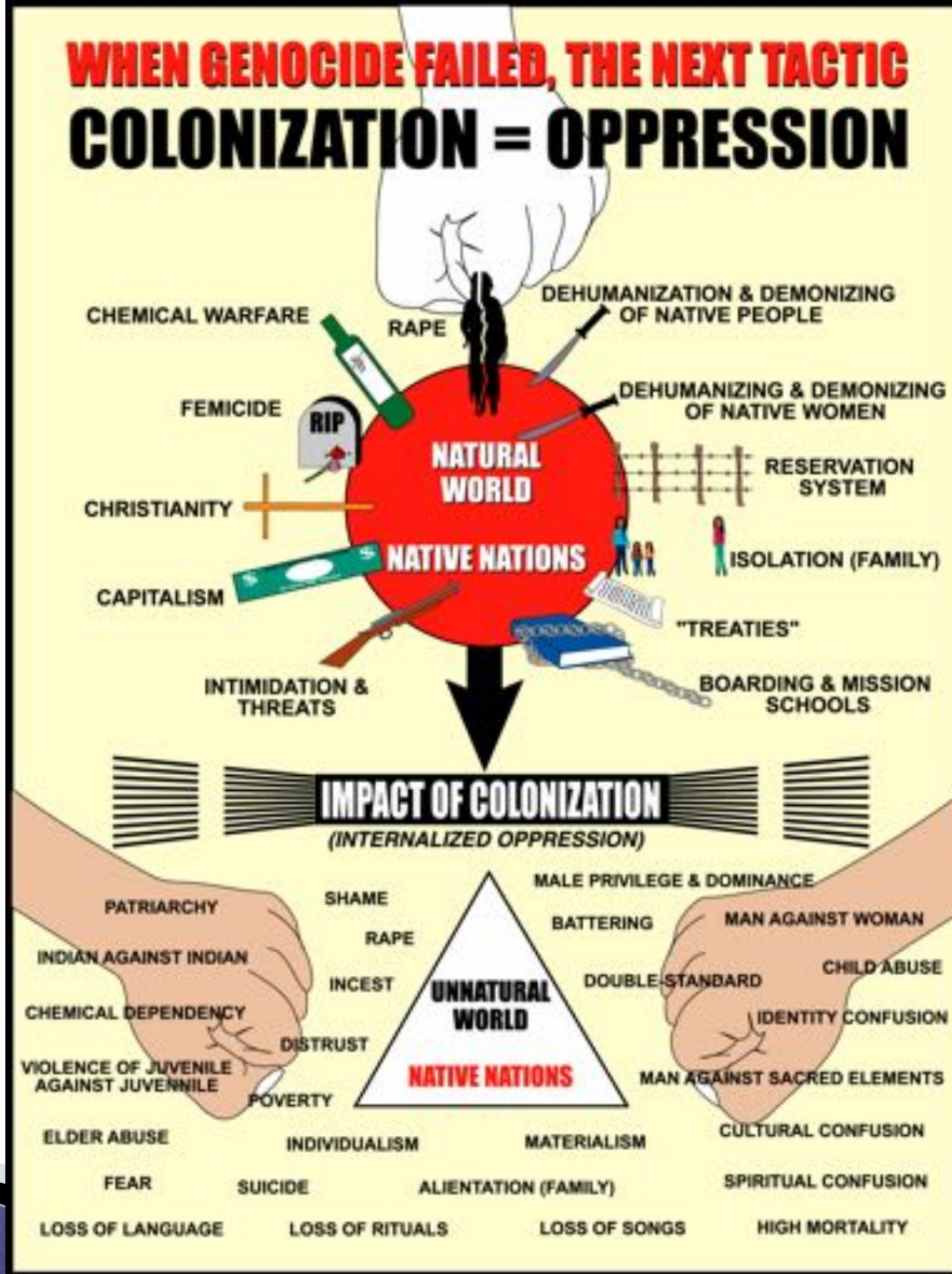
- ▶ Before colonization, violence against women was extremely rare, and consequences were immediate and severe.



What makes American Indians Unique

- ▶ In order to better serve Native people, you need to understand our history and how we got to where we are today
 - ▶ DIVERSITY – there are over 560 federally recognized tribes
 - ▶ Each tribe has it's own traditions, culture, language, spiritual beliefs and practices
 - ▶ Cultural Identity
 - ▶ Wide Range of Acculturation
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WHEN GENOCIDE FAILED, THE NEXT TACTIC COLONIZATION = OPPRESSION



Kill the Indian,



Save the Man




Trauma, Trauma, Trauma

- ▶ **Historical trauma** is cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over the lifespan and across generations, emanating from massive group trauma. Native Americans have, for over 500 years, endured physical, emotional, social, and spiritual genocide from European and American colonialist policy. Contemporary Native American life has adapted, such that, many are healthy and economically self-sufficient. Yet a significant proportion of Native people are not faring as well.
- ▶ Documentary "The Wellbriety Movement: Journey to Forgiveness"
<http://whitebison.org/index.php>


Symptoms of Historical Trauma

- ▶ Drug and Alcohol Abuse
 - ▶ Child Abuse
 - ▶ Sexual Abuse
 - ▶ Domestic Violence
 - ▶ Unhealthy relationships
 - ▶ ANGER!!! – Angry and don't even know why
 - ▶ Unresolved grief
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- ▶ WE ARE ONLY TREATING THE SYMPTOMS

What do we do about it?

- ▶ 1st is confronting the historical trauma.
 - 2nd is understanding the trauma.
 - 3rd is releasing the pain of historical trauma.
 - 4th is transcending the trauma.
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Intervention

1. Education increases awareness of trauma,
 2. Sharing effects of trauma provides relief,
 3. Grief resolution through collective mourning/healing creates positive group identity and commitment to community,
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Tribal Law

► Tribal Law and Order Act 2010

TLOA seeks to address many of the challenges faced in tribal justice systems, to establish greater accountability for federal agencies responsible for prosecuting crime on reservations, and to provide tribes with tools to combat extremely high rates of crime. In signing the bill, President Obama remarked that it is “unconscionable that crime rates in Indian country are more than twice the national average and up to 20 times the national average on some reservations.”

Goals of TLOA

- ▶ Develop a system of alternatives to incarceration.
- ▶ Make alternative interventions culturally specific to individual Nations.
- ▶ Include after school and summer programs for tribal youth as part of crime prevention strategy.
- ▶ Ensure that tribal jails comply with standards on such issues such as inmate classification, health services, sanitation, preventative maintenance, discipline, grievance procedures, offender services and activities, staffing and others.


Goals of TLOA continued

- ▶ Include juvenile detention and treatment. Inventory existing funding and technical assistance resources for tribal youth across federal agencies; and develop training for community coalitions to support tribal juvenile detention facilities.
- ▶ Support regional partnerships with state and local entities to contract for bed space to improve capacity and sustainability.
- ▶ Develop data-driven, comprehensive programming. Use planning data and validated risk assessment tools to assess key trends in tribal jail population and define critical programming and partners. Support research to identify effective methods in Tribal Nations.
- ▶ Apply jail standards to facility funding, construction and maintenance.
- ▶ Develop and implement evidence-based reentry programs that include risk assessment tools and individual case management plans.
- ▶ Locate more federal halfway houses on tribal lands to keep members connected to community and family.

What Can Non-Native Workers Do

- ▶ Understand
- ▶ Be Patient
- ▶ Be consistent
- ▶ Advocate in a manner that respects & validates women's individuality, experience, decisions and strengths
- ▶ Model courage and resistance in the face of fear, oppression, intimidation
- ▶ Provide leadership ensuring women's safety and offender accountability are prioritized.
- ▶ Provide 24/7 support, accurate info., crisis response, resources
- ▶ Biased support of & accountability to women who have been battered/raped; defend their confidentiality
- ▶ Act as a relative and remain accountable to women who have been battered/raped

Additional Resources

- ▶ Tribal DV Programs – Santee, Omaha, Winnebago, and Ponca Tribes
 - ▶ Nebraska Family Violence Coalition
 - ▶ Urban Indian Centers – Indian Center, Inc. in Lincoln; Urban Indian Health
 - ▶ Local Culturally relevant resources
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Resources

- ▶ NATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER
- ▶ Native Women's Society of the Great Plains
- ▶ <http://www.nativewomenssociety.org/>
- ▶ SOUTH DAKOTA COALITION ENDING DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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